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LB 165

plant. You know that the nuclear plant at Brownville, Cooper, has had fairly low ratings when it comes to the safety and operation of that plant. And of course, with Three Mile Island, there's been a concentrated effort by our federal government to make sure all the nuclear plants in this country are safe and running properly. And so they are seeking to improve their position. Nuclear Management Company, at the current time, runs eight nuclear power plants for five different companies. And all those eight plants are getting a higher rating of safety from the federal government than Cooper is currently getting. And NPPD believes that they can save money by contracting out to another company, a management company, to run that plant. This is the reason for LB 165. I believe Senator Vrtiska has circulated some handouts. I would ask you to look at them. If you have any questions, we do have a couple of amendments. Senator Vrtiska has prioritized this bill. I thank you for that. I think if we do pass this bill, it will make it easier for NPPD to contract management services out at their plant at Cooper. This bill only affects nuclear power plants. And there is no guarantee that NPPD will do this. But we think that with the passage of this bill, it's basically clarifying language that would allow this to happen. If you have any questions, why, I would be glad to answer. Senator Vrtiska, you may have any of my remaining time, if you want it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Vrtiska,...

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator...

SENATOR CUDABACK: ...about seven minutes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...thank you, Senator Schrock. I just wanted to say a couple of things I think that are important. First of all, if you saw the paper this morning, you understand that there's been some problems with management at the Cooper Nuclear Plant, based a lot on the fact they have a huge turnover of management people down there. And I've talked many times with the board members of the nuclear plant, and they've had problems because of change of management and change of style, and it causes a lot of uncertainty about the future of the plant. Cooper is, as Senator Schrock said, located at Brownville,